

LOC {CASTL} MB/464511  
SF/233/C2/F5  
C. 1  
FLOYD, RICHARD  
THE BOUMA DAIRY FARM

*The Bouda Dairy Farm*

*by*

*RF*

*Richard Floyd*

*(RF)*

*Anthropology 101*

*Mark Maling*

*1976*

The Bouma family



Front Row. Left to right

(1) Mr. Bouma, age 56

(2) Mrs. Bouma

Back Row Left to right

(1) Dave Parkinson age 30

(2) Joyce Parkinson (Bouma) age 21

(3) Tom Bouma age 18

(4) Irma Lloyd (Bouma) age 22

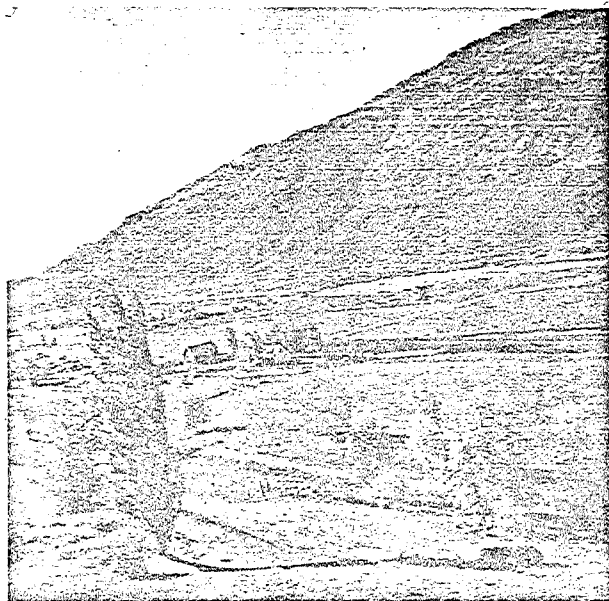
(5) Robert Lloyd age 24

The purpose of this project was to learn some facts about a Dairy Farm and the people who live on it.

This paper is divided into two sections, # I The Farm; and # II History and Home Life of the Bowman family. It is impossible to completely separate them as they are quite interlinked so there may be some information repeated within this essay.

## I The Farm

a) The fields etc.



The total acreage of the farm is 130 acres, of which 80 acres is in pasture land, 20 acres is cultivated with alfalfa and the remaining 30 acres is hillside.

To irrigate the pasture land, water is pumped from Beaver Creek (app.  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi. below the farm) through 800 feet of 6" pipe line which is permanently underground, it is connected to 1600 feet of main line which is above ground.

The line above ground is mounted on wheels so that the pipes can be moved across the fields more easily, this is done twice a day because there is 900,000 gallons of water per hour being pumped onto the fields. This amount of water is continuously being pumped (24 hours a day) onto the fields for a 4-5 months period every ~~year~~ summer.

The fields are fenced off with

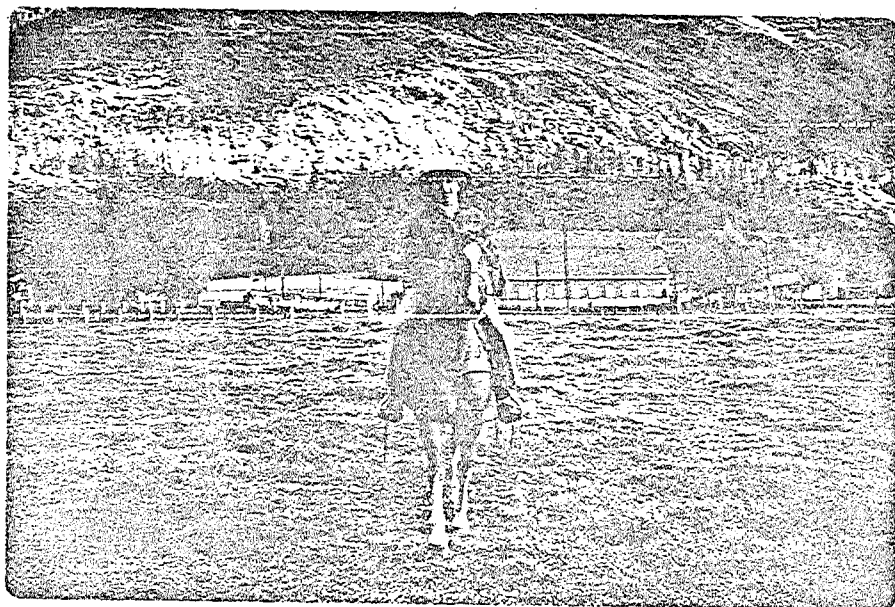
five strands of barbed wire; (approx. 6 miles of fence) to keep their (Bouma's) cattle in and to keep neighbors' cattle out. The cattle are rotated in their grazing fields each day so as to not overgraze any one field and also to keep the cattle in a field that has not been freshly irrigated so that they (cattle) will not get hog disease.

In the spring and fall, 16 tons of fertilizers are used on these fields plus 160 tons of manure, to help with the growth of the grass.

B.

### The Barn

Mr. Bouma on horse  
and the ~~is~~  
barn in the  
background



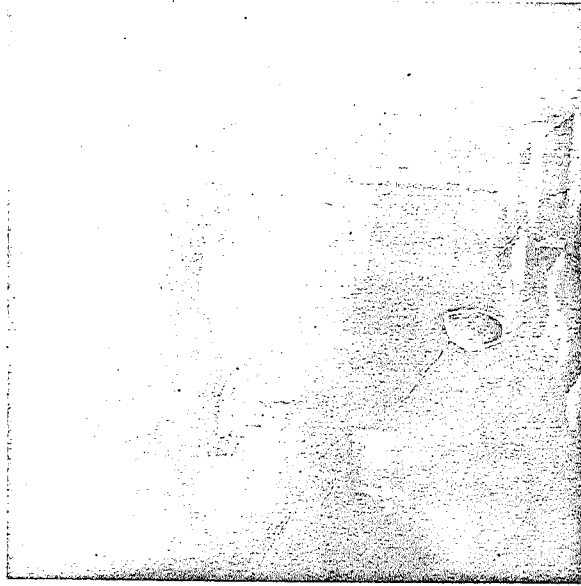
The most important part of the farm is the barn, for it is here that a great deal of time and labour is consumed.

Too many people in our modern contemporary society will see a cow in a field and will automatically associate it with a gallon of milk at their neighbourhood supermarket.

They have no idea of the time, energy and inconvenience that go into milking and looking after cows.

The cows are milked twice a day by Mr. Bouna and his son Tom, the first time at 6 A.M. and the second time at 5:00 P.M. It takes them approximately one hour to set up and check the equipment before they begin milking and it takes at least 1 hour and 45 min. to milk the cows with six milking machines. In fig (1) we can see an old fashioned

fig (1)



MR Beama  
and a old type  
Milking Machine

milking machine that Mr. Beama is holding, he has since got more modern milking machines that are operated by suction air vacuum.

In fig (2), the fourth cow from the left has a modern milking machine on it, if one looks closely you will see a belt upon its back, the milking machine is hooked to the belt so as to take pressure off of the cows udder

Fig (2)



(C) Steps in Milking

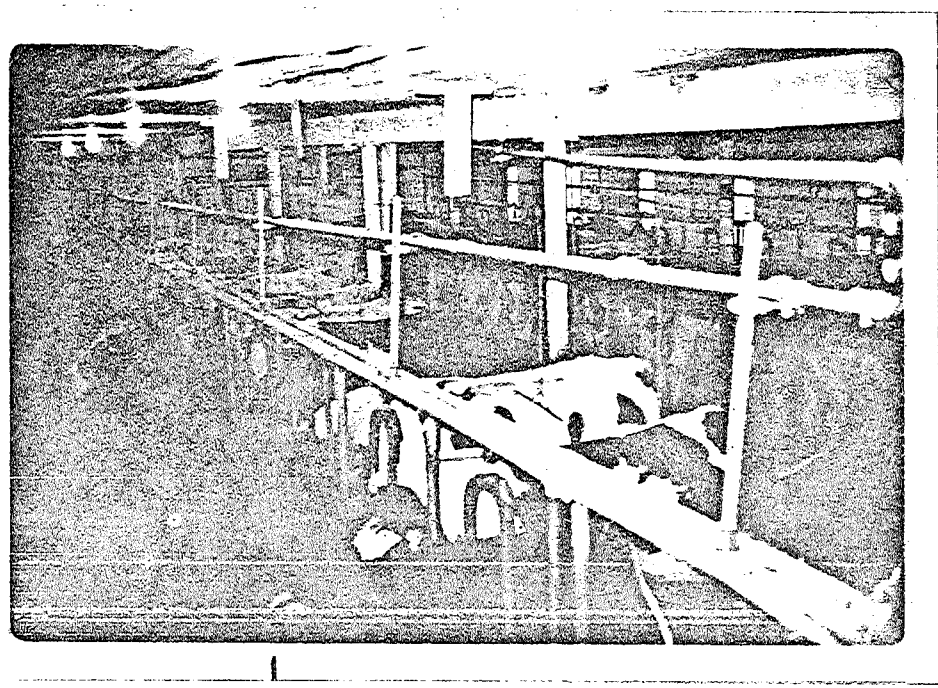
- (1) The udder and teats of the cows are washed to cut down on bacteria.
- (2) The belts are put over the cows which will later support some of the weight of the milking machine.
- (3) The milking machine has two hoses leading from it, one hose is connected to the vacuum pipe and the other hose is connected to the main milk line. (milk from the milking machine drains into the main milk line, as seen in fig (3) )
- (4) The milking machine is connected to the belt and the four rubber milkers (which are replaced every month) are connected to the cows teats.
- (5) The milking machine is left on the cow 5-10 minutes depending on the cow.



- (6) production level.  
after one cow is milked, the milking machine is removed and the above steps are repeated on the next cow.

fig (3.)

The two pipes running directly above the cows are the vacuum pipe and the main milk pipe.

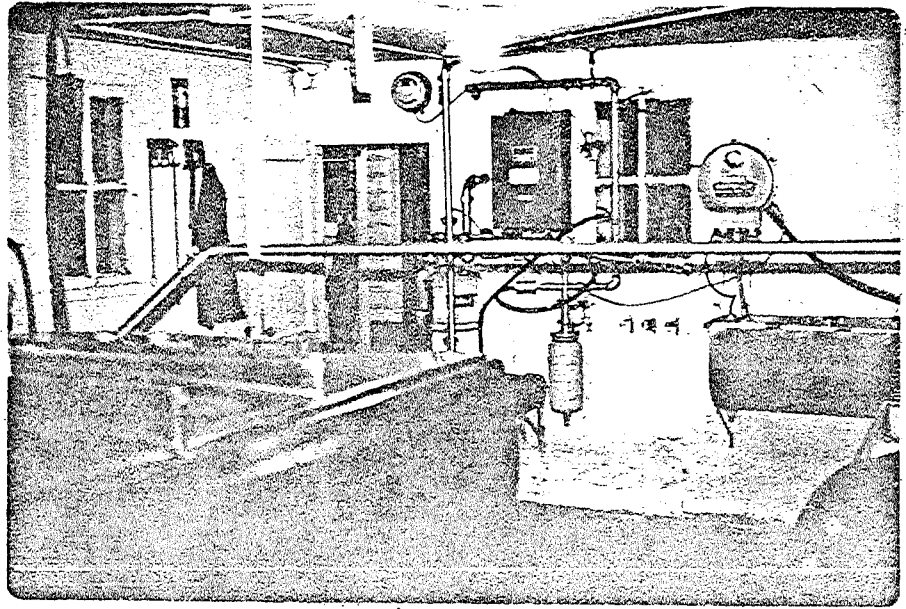


The milk travels from the cow to the milking machine through the pipe line system to the milk house. There the milk goes through a system of filters and then is stored in a bulk tank where it is cooled to  $36^{\circ}\text{F}$ . (fig 4). The milk is picked up every three days by a Palm Beach Truck, and hauled to the coast but the cost of this transportation

which is 60¢ per 100 pounds of milk is paid by the Board.

fig (4)

Bulk tank in foreground, filters etc are against the wall



Before and after each milking the milk lines and milking machines are cleaned to lower bacterial cell counts. Each farmer is allowed only a certain level of bacterial cell count. If he is above this level he gets a warning (B. C. Dairy Board) and if it continued the farm can be shut down.

(unable to ship his milk)

During the winter all the producing milk cows are kept inside

the barn for the whole day except for two hours when they are allowed to go outside for exercise, weather permitting. The

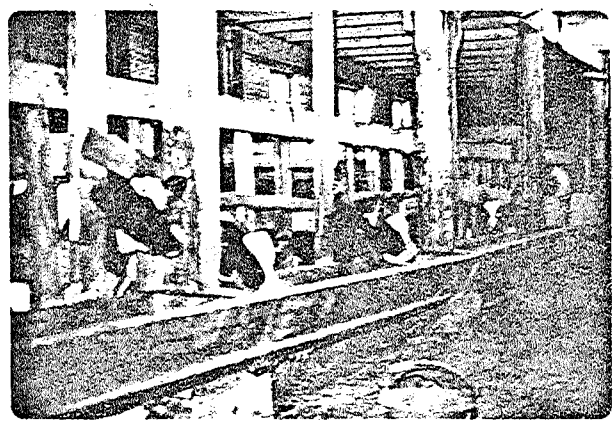
They are fed 12-13 pounds of grain (mash), ~~a day, per cow~~ 30 pounds of alfalfa and they consume 20 gallons of water per cow per day.

When a calf is born (fig 546) it is separated 1-2 days after its birth to avoid attachment to the mother. It is fed partly mother's milk diluted with water to avoid scours, later milk replacer is used. The calf is kept indoors 4-6 months and is fed milk replacer, grain, but pulp and alfalfa. It is 24-26 months after its birth before a cow begins its first milk production, the average age of a cow on the Browne farm is four

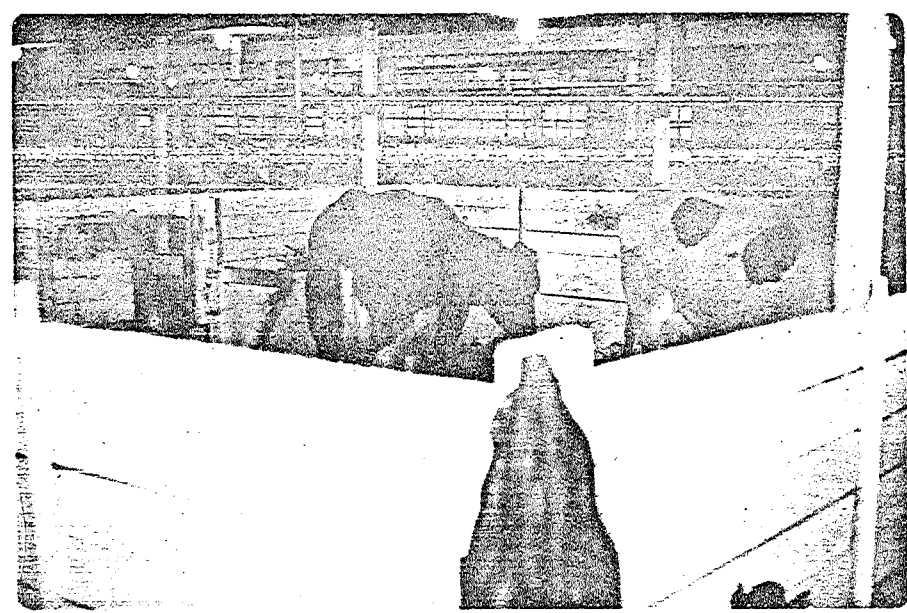
on five years.

fig 516

calf pen



Delivery  
ward



The average milk production of a cow per year is 15,500 lb and the average butterfat production is 532 lb per year per cow. A cow produces milk between 305 and 340 days, and its greatest

milk production is in the first three months after it has calved. After the cow has gone dry (is not producing any milk) it is given a ninety day rest and then it is re-bred.

(d) Equipment

There is quite a bit of equipment needed to run a farm this size and so most of the profits from the milk is re-invested in the farm. The following list of equipment cost will give some idea of what it really costs to run a farm.

one ton truck	\$2300	barrows	\$200
$\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck	\$2500	plow	\$200
$\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck	\$3000	hay trailer	\$125
Big tractor	\$7750	manure spreader	\$1100
Small tractor	\$4000	chopper	\$800
root picker	\$3500	milk equip.	\$6250
baler	\$1000	platform scales	\$2250
weather	\$2600	bulk tank	\$12,000
rake	\$400	milk pump	\$750
spring harrow	\$600	manure cleaner	\$3000
irrigation pump	\$2350	burrow builder	\$250
pipes and spring lines	\$126,500	2 hay elevators	\$600
fence post driver	\$522	auger	\$400

loader \$1000  
snow blade \$200

milks (milk) \$660

cows \$600 per head, 59 cows \$35,400  
breed cheyres \$400 / head, 20 cows \$8,000  
open cheyres \$300 / head, 22 " \$6,600  
calves, 6 months and under \$200 / head, 20 \$4,000  
horses ~~\$4,000~~ \$900

Main Barn \$25,000  
loafing Barn \$7000  
machine shed \$1,500  
work house and garage \$2,000  
horse stable \$1,500

There are many problems  
and inconveniences that arise on a farm  
that ~~are~~ and the following is a  
list of just a few of them.

- (a) difficult cows that jump around during milking and disturb the other cows. (having the radio playing during milking time is very helpful in soothing these skittish animals)
- (b) milk machines falling off and becoming damaged
- (c) interruptions such as visitors or the telephone (machines and animals have to be watched constantly)

- (d) milk fever (animals after giving birth are unable to stand and they may die if they do not receive calcium solution directly into its blood stream) [Eclampsia].
- (e) Keeping bacteria cell level down (necessary to keep a very clean barn)
- (f) Keeping temperature in the barn stable (fans are used to do this)
- (g) draughts must be eliminated in the barn, otherwise animals will develop pneumonia.
- (h) power failures (impossible to use machines and stored milk could become spoil)
- (i) the one hour time changes (the farm has to be switched over gradually,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour per day not the full hour, so as to not upset the cows and put them off of their production).

## II

### History and Home life of the Bouma family

During the 1950's Mr. and Mrs. Bouma so came to Canada from Holland with their two young daughters. Mr. Bouma worked upon a farm at the west coast for five years before moving to Columbia Gardens (near Trail) and

buying the dairy farm from his uncle. It took them ten years to pay the farm off, during these ten years Mr. Bouma was expanding and improving the farm and also a son, Tom, was born who now plays an important part in the farm.

The majority of my information on home life came from Mrs. Bouma and the two daughters, Joyce and Irma, (both daughters are married to school teachers) not from Mr. Bouma and his son Tom. This was due to the fact that both were working outside, which in itself is a indication of life style, that the heavy outside work is done by the men with help from the girls (when they were young) and all the inside housework is done by Mrs. Bouma and the girls.



Routine plays a big part in the family and the following is a list of their daily routine.

- (1) 5:00 A.M. Mr. Bourn and Tom get up, go to the barn to prepare the cows for milking
- (2) 6:00 A.M. start milking the cows.
- (3) 8:00 A.M. milking finished, family has breakfast
- (4) 8:00 A.M. - 12 NOON, cleaning done in barn
- (5) 12:30, family has lunch
- (6) 3:00 P.M. prepare equipment for milking
- (7) 4:00 P.M. family has tea
- (8) 5:00 P.M. cows are milked
- (9) 7:00 P.M. family has dinner
- (10) every Sunday, the family goes to church.

#### (a) Children Growing Up

When the two girls, Irma and Joyce were small they thought that their father slept in the barn because he would be in the barn when they got up and

when they went to bed he was back in the barn milking the cows.

On summer holidays (from school) the girls were sent to a Church camp but they preferred staying on the farm because it was more interesting and also they were close to a creek where they had learned to swim.

The girls said that when they went to school they sometimes felt like outsiders with other girls their age. This was due to the fact that after school they would have to take the school bus home whereas the other girls were usually in walking distance of each other's home so they formed close knit groups. The friends of Joyce and Irma were very interested in seeing the farm and liked to come and stay with the Bourns girls on the farm much more

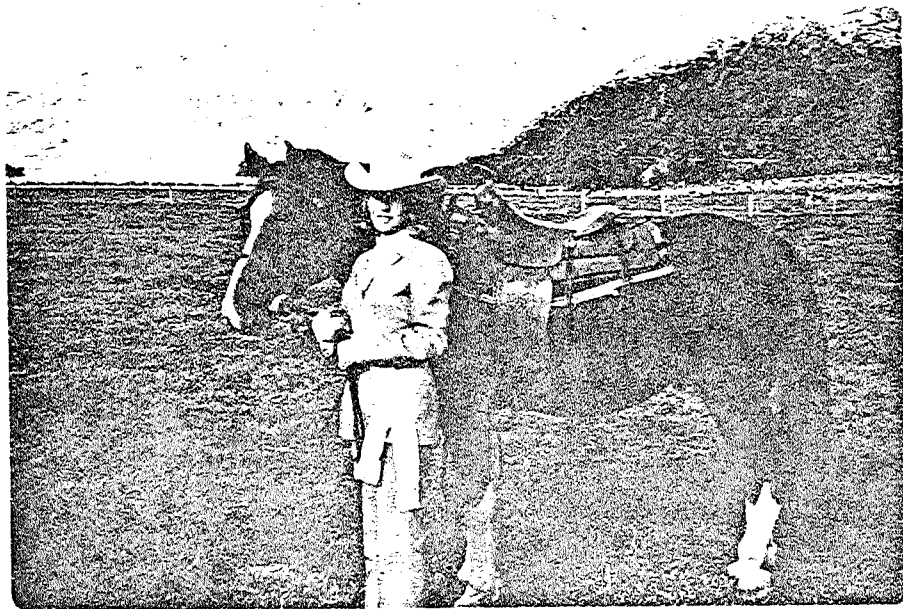
than the Boma girls wanted to stay with them in the city. This love for their farm and country living in their youth can be directly attributed to their father who takes pride in his work and his farm. It is interesting to note that given a choice of living in a city or living in ~~a city~~ the country both girls would rather live in the country than within a city even with all its modern conveniences.

The son, Tom, didn't want to go to school when he was young because he thought it was for girls and not for boys. He has grown up with the idea of becoming a farmer but when he told <sup>a</sup> ~~an~~ so called enlightened high school councillor what he wanted in life, he was told that he was nuts. He has since left school and ~~has~~ is

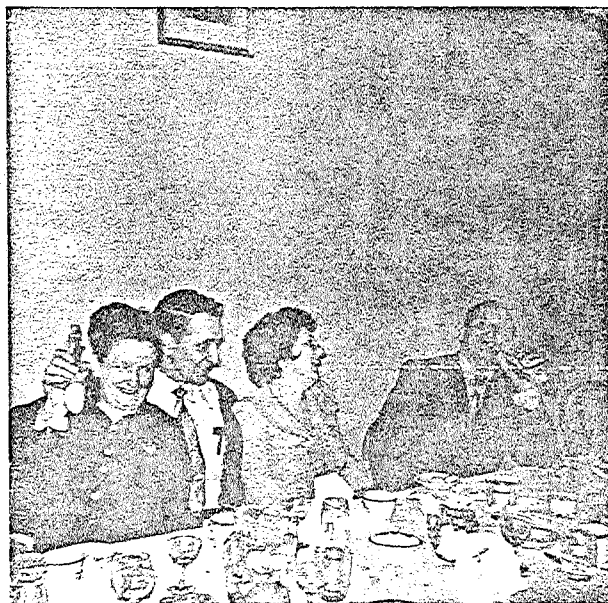
pursuing the career of his choice, that of farming. He is more mature and confident in himself than any other young man of the same age and this is probably due to the closeness of the family and growing up ~~on~~ on the farm itself.

(b) Recreation

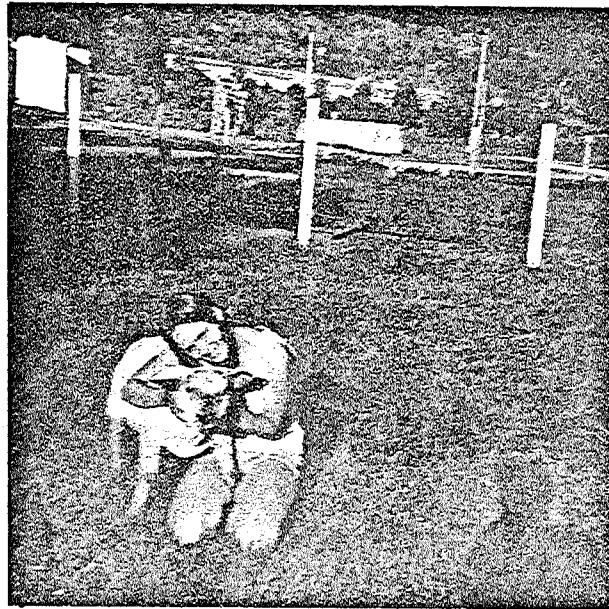
The Bouma family which is "very close knit family do many things together such as go on picnics, swimming and socialize with other farmers when they discuss progress, new equipment, troubles etc. It has been said and used that a picture is worth a thousand words so these following pictures that I have put in for recreation that the Boumas do, increase this paper by four thousand words.



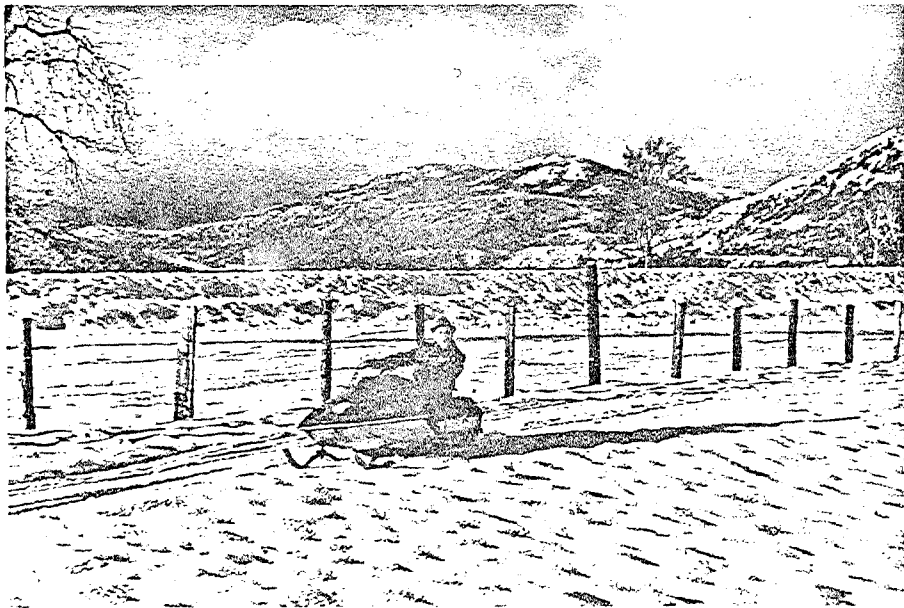
Irma and her horse



MR and MRS Bouma Socializing  
with friends



Soyce and pet lamb



MR. BOWMA on a different type horse

### Conclusion

Mr. Bourne has improved the farm vastly since he took over and he is still expanding and improving it. His efforts have been recognized by his fellow dairymen in British Columbia and he has received many awards for his milk production. Here is a list of some of the more recent awards he has won.

1969 Dam - Daughter Pair (mother & daughter)  
13,943 (lb.) milk 493 (lb.) Fat

1970 Dam - Daughter Pair  
14,736 Milk 502 Fat

1972 Highest Herd Average in East and West Kootenay

1972 Highest Mature Cow  
22,112 Milk 854 Fat

The life on a farm is not an easy one, with long hours of hard work. The farm dominated

life because you have to get up early every morning to milk the cows and do chores so you are unable to stay up late at nights etc. There are compensations for this and a very important one is that there is more communication between mother, father, brother and sister within this family than there is within other families. All the above about hard work, a disadvantages etc. are true, but as Mrs. Bourne said "you chose it (to live on a farm) on your own free will!!"